



PARTNERING TOGETHER



(a publication of Special Health Care Needs-Family Partnership)
Northwestern MO Area
Spring 2006

REGIONAL MEETING UPDATE

On January 31, 2006 the Northwestern regional meeting took place at the Independence Regional Office. Attendees had the opportunity to connect with other family members, share resources, and information. The presenter for the meeting was Doris Weber with Life Care Planning. Doris discussed issues pertaining to long term planning for individuals with disabilities, guardianship, and Medicaid eligibility. If you were not able to attend the meeting and would like to contact Doris, she can be reached at 816-931-1313. Another regional meeting is scheduled for sometime in October; watch for information in the next newsletter.

MARCH IS DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

The population of United States citizens living with developmental disabilities is estimated to be about 10 million. Their disabilities are caused by physical and mental impairments that are chronic and severe. These impairments occur during the growth and development period of their lives. The most common conditions of developmental disabilities are mental retardation, cerebral palsy, autism, epilepsy, and Down syndrome.
www.eaglemountbillings.org/html/Disabilities%20Definitions.htm

To bring awareness to Developmental Disabilities, the Metropolitan Council on Developmental Disabilities (MCDD) will be participating in the statewide Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day on March 29, 2006 at the Capitol in Jefferson City. Bus transportation will be provided free of charge from the Independence Center Mall in Independence, MO. Contact: 816-889-3422 for more information.

WORKSHOPS & RESOURCES

Teaching Social Skills to Children with
Autism & Asperger's
March 17, 2006 8:30-3:30
Hilton Garden Inn/Independence Mo
Contact: AESS 636-978-4951

Missouri Department of Mental Health
Spring Training Institute, May 17-19, 2006
Contact: 573-751-4942
www.dmh.mo.gov/ada/news.htm

Missouri Department of Mental Health
National Autism Symposium, May 18-20, 2006
Contact: 573-751-4942
www.dmh.mo.gov/ada/news.htm

Juliette Low Girl Scout Camp for girls with
disabilities, July 12-19, 2006 or July 22-29, 2006
Kansas City, MO at the Rotary Youth Camp at
Lake Jacomo. For girls ages 8-18. You do not
need to be a current girl scout to attend.
Contact: 816-358-8750

Legal Rights Handbooks for Missourians
with Disabilities
Missouri Protection and Advocacy (MPA) Services
has made available the fourth edition of the
handbook. This handbook is provided in a
convenient 3-ring binder format and is available
free of charge by contacting Missouri Protection
and Advocacy Services at: 1-800-392-8667.

Family Partnership Website:
www.dhss.mo.gov/FamilyPartnership/

APRIL IS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

Autism is a complex developmental disability that typically appears during the first three years of life and is the result of a neurological disorder. Autism affects the normal functioning of the brain, impacting development in the areas of social interaction and communication skills. Both children and adults with autism typically show difficulties in verbal and non-verbal communication, social interactions, and leisure or play activities. One should keep in mind, however, that autism is a spectrum disorder and it affects each individual differently and at varying degrees - this is why early diagnosis is so crucial. For more information on autism contact the Autism Society of America at 1-800-3AUTISM or www.autism-society.org.

NORTHWEST FAMILY PARTNER

Tracy Simmons
816-537-8103 or 1-866-809-2400 ext. 308
Email: tsimmons8103@aol.com

IDEA Workshop for Parents of Special Needs Children

April 8, 2006 from 9 am to 3 pm
Anita Gorman Conservation Discovery Center
Keynote speaker: Nancy Huerta, Esq.
The cost is FREE to parents. Please register by April 5, 2006 by contacting Robin Russell at 816-460-2502 or autismalliancekc.org.
Sponsored by the Autism Alliance of KC, AARC, and MPACT.

Power Up 2006 Conference and Expo

April 10 and 11, 2006
Holiday Inn Select, Columbia, MO.
Sessions related to Assistive Technology and Information Technology.
Contact: 816-373-5193 or bwhitlok@swbell.net
www.at.mo.gov
Sponsored by Missouri Assistive Technology.